

loped, for instance, than in a Rodent of corresponding dimensions. Another important point to notice is, that the ventricles of the optic lobes, the persistence of which is so characteristic of the oviparous Vertebrates, are obliterated in the *Echidna*.

As is well known, there is considerable variation in the form and relative size of the four eminences on the surface of the optic lobes, and of the distinctness with which they are marked off from one another, in different mammals. In the Sloth, and more especially the Wombat, they are scarcely, if at all, more sharply defined than in the *Echidna*, which therefore, in this respect, presents no trenchant deviation from the ordinary Mammalian type.

EXPLANATION OF THE WOODCUT.

Middle portion of the brain of the *Echidna* (*E. hystrix*), twice the natural size.

Fig. 1. Seen from above. The cerebellum turned back to show its superior peduncles.

Fig. 2. Side view.

- a. Optic thalamus.
- b. Peduncle of the pineal body.
- c. Pineal body.
- d. Anterior eminence of the optic lobe (*uatis*).
- e. Posterior eminence of the optic lobe (*testis*).
- f. Superior peduncle of the cerebellum (*processus a cerebello ad testes*).
- g. Cerebellum.
- h. Optic track.
- i. Fifth nerve.

2. DESCRIPTION OF ASPIDIOTES MELANOCEPHALUS, A NEW SNAKE FROM PORT DENISON, N.E. AUSTRALIA. BY GERARD KREFFT, ACTING CURATOR AND SECRETARY, AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, SYDNEY.

Fam. BOIDÆ.

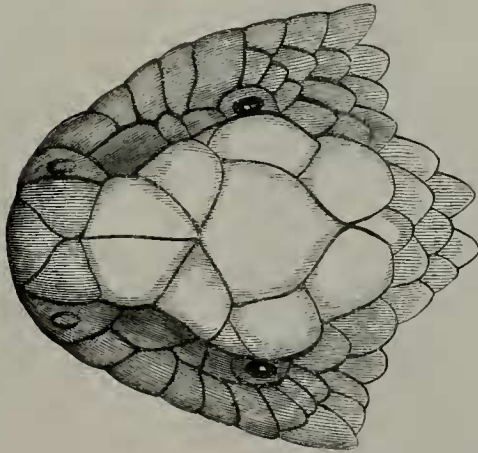
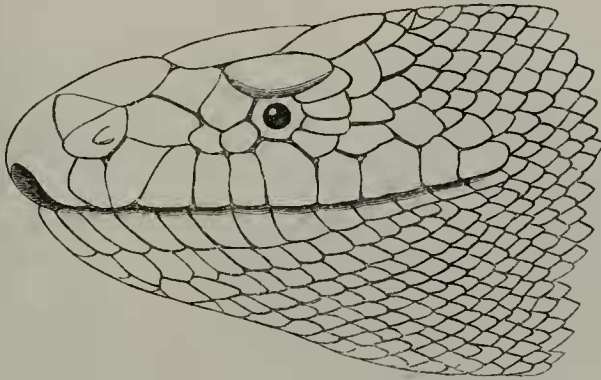
ASPIDIOTES, nov. gen.

Crown covered with broad shields reaching behind the eyes; the remaining part of the head scaly; labial shields without pits, the front ones high and narrow, the hinder shields lower and broad. Nostrils lateral, in the middle of a plate, two loreals, two anterior and four posterior oculars; superciliaries broad, rather prominent above the eye; nasal shield very large, much produced backwards, and deeply grooved on its lower edge. Scales smooth, in fifty-two series on the middle of the body; ventral plates rather narrow; subcaudals entire, except the last ten or twelve, which are divided. Tail conical, prehensile, ending in a blunt point. Head rather high, of moderate size; teeth not very large (smaller than in *Morelia*). Body thick and compressed.

ASPIDIOTES MELANOCEPHALUS.

Scales in 52 series on the middle of the body. Ventral shields narrow, 330. Anal entire. Subcaudals $51\frac{13}{13}$.

Head rather high ; body thick and compressed ; tail conical, tapering, prehensile, ending in a blunt point ; anal spurs small ; ten upper labials, the sixth coming into the orbit ; two anterior and four posterior ocular shields ; two loreals, the second nearest to the eye very small ; one nasal, pierced by the nostril ; eye moderate, pupil elliptical, erect. Three pairs of frontal shields, the middle pair longest ; vertical broad, the largest shield of the head, with an obtuse angle in front and an acute one behind, sides rounded ; superciliaries



large, prominent above the eyes ; occipitals distinct, but smaller than the vertical, forked and rounded behind ; the first pair of frontals small, triangular ; the second pair five-sided, nearly as large again as the first pair ; the third smaller than the second and larger than the first, quadrangular. Of the fourteen lower labial shields, the first seven are narrow and elongate, the rest broad ; no groove upon the labials. The nasal shield is very broad, with a deep pit, shaped like a bean, and much produced backwards. Head moderate ; body thick, compressed ; anal spurs small. Colour light brown, with a series of darker rings, which become indistinct near the sides ; below

yellowish-white here and there, with a few dark blotches; head and neck jet-black above and below. Total length 7' 10".

Hab. Port Denison.

3. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF MORMYRUS. BY DR. A. GÜNTHER.

(Plate II.)

Only a short time ago I described* a peculiar species of *Mormyrus*, *M. petersii*, distinguished by a very long mandibular flap. I have the pleasure to lay to-day before the Society another species with the same structure of the fins, and with a similar prolongation of the lower jaw. It comes, like *M. petersii*, from West Africa. The peculiar form of the snout has suggested the specific name of

MORMYRUS TAMANDUA. (Pl. II. fig. 1.)

D. 28. A. 31. V. 6. L. lat. 80. Body compressed, rather elongate—its greatest height, between the origin of the dorsal and anal fins, being two-ninths of the total length (without caudal); the length of the head is one-fourth of the same. The snout is much prolonged, tubiform, slightly tapering, and curved downwards, the distance between the eye and the end of the mandibular flap being twice that between the eye and the gill-opening. The mouth is very small, at the extremity of the snout, with the jaws equal, and armed with two pairs of feeble conical teeth above and below. The mandibular flap is as long as the eye. The eye is covered with the skin, but appears through from below it. The pectoral is nearly twice as long as the ventral, and extends beyond its base. The dorsal and anal fins are opposite each other, and placed on the caudal portion of the body, the origin of the former being in the middle between the occiput and the root of the caudal. The scales on the trunk are rather small and irregularly arranged, but become gradually larger and more regular posteriorly. Coloration uniform.

The single specimen obtained is 10 inches long.

We add, for comparison, the diagnosis of the other species mentioned above:—

MORMYRUS PETERSII. (Pl. II. fig. 2.)

D. 27. A. 34. L. lat. 66. The mandible is prolonged into a long, conical fleshy appendage, which is nearly half as long as the head. Dark brown, with two lighter cross bands.

Hab. Old Calabar.

* Wieg. Arch. 1862, p. 64.